

STATINTL

Eisenhower: No Cuban Invasion Plan

New GOP Congressmen Briefed

By the Associated Press

Gettysburg, Pa.

Former President Eisenhower may have started a new round of post mortems on the Cuban invasion by declaring that his outgoing administration had not drawn up any invasion plan.

Ever since the invasion was crushed at the Bay of Pigs last spring, it has been reported that President Kennedy inherited a detailed invasion plan with many armed units poised throughout the Caribbean area. All that remained for Mr. Kennedy, these reports said, was to give the go-ahead signal.

But Mr. Eisenhower told a group of 33 freshman Republican congressmen here Monday:

"We had done nothing except to recognize that these Cuban refugees had a great desire to go back to Cuba, so we began organizing them and giving them weapons and training them. But beyond that we could not go, because at that time there was no recognized leader among the (refugee) Cubans."

A White House source commented:

"I'm sorry to say the General is in error. I not only know there were plans for an invasion while he was in office, there are documents to prove it."

Not a Consultant

He added, "I was not a consultant or adviser to the (Kennedy) administration in any way, of course."

A reporter went back to the question later, and Mr. Eisen-

hower amplified, "In March, 1960, we had a little meeting in my office as to whether to go ahead and train these people. We set up a little group to keep in touch. . . . It was never any more than that."

The Central Intelligence Agency has been widely credited, without contradiction, with starting to line up the ill-fated invasion as much as a year before the landing.

Asked about his views on the Soviet Union's resumption of nuclear testing in the atmosphere, Mr. Eisenhower said he believed the Soviets have been secretly testing nuclear weapons during the three-year moratorium which ended Sept. 1 with the first shot in their new series.

Wide Range of Subjects

Mr. Eisenhower covered a wide range of subjects in a setting strongly reminiscent of the news conference he used to hold in his White House days. One difference was that the first-term GOP congressmen asked most of the questions. Newsmen were allowed at the last minute to ask a few.

The luncheon program at the Gettysburg Hotel followed a morning in which Mr. Eisenhower was cast in the role of guide for the visiting congressmen around the historic Gettysburg Battlefield.

Mr. Eisenhower obviously enjoyed himself and showed a deep knowledge of the tactics and strategy of the Confederacy's advance into Union territory. Even 90-degree heat didn't seem to faze the ex-President, though his younger visitors seemed to wilt.